



WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 11, 2014

8:00 am

Public Works Meeting Room

Meeting called by: Jason Skeels and Ellie Kurth

Type of meeting: Regularly Scheduled

Attendees: Lyons Witten (Chair), John Tobiason (note taker), Steve Dunn, Brian Yellen, Rebecca Fricke

MINUTES

1. Review minutes from previous meeting and vote:
 - a. Minutes were approved.
2. Update on snow and ice road treatments (Jason and Ellie):
 - a. Winter 2013-2014 was first year of salt/chemical only usage, no sand.
 - b. Reviewed water quality data for monitoring wells. No significant findings.
 - c. Data for miles treated, tons of salt, precipitation, number of events being compiled and reviewed, to be shared at next meeting.
 - d. Use of only salt results in less sand sweeping and shorter work time per event as salt more effective than prior use of sand
3. Update on the use of fluoride in Amherst water (Ellie)
 - a. 9/17 deadline for town warrant articles. A petition exists regarding quality of town's fluoride chemical that is purchased.
 - b. Town is doing analyses to quantify background levels of fluoride in town water sources. Data so far show levels from <0.02 mg/l to 0.34 mg/L, with the Atkins and Pelham surface waters typically less than 0.2 mg/L, well #1 at 0.13 – 0.29 mg/L, well#3 at 0.06 – 0.31 mg/L and well#4 at 0.02 - 0.34 mg/L. Measurements are ongoing. Fluoride is added to achieve treated water levels of ~ 0.8-1.0 mg/L. (Checked with Steve Call)
4. Update on sewer and water line extensions and replacements (Jason)
 - a. Harkness Road: 90% complete. Sewer and water main in place, need pump station.
 - b. Pine Street: all utilities in (replaced water & sewer), road being resurfaced Sept 2014
 - c. Amherst Woods: phase I under construction (Larkspur to Woodlot), finish spring 2015, phase 2 to be bid in winter 14/15.
 - d. Harris/Fisher Streets: water main, designed in house, not yet funded/bid
 - e. Northampton Road (Rte 9/116, State Rd): as above (from S. Pleasant St to Univ Drive)

5. Hadley interconnection update (Jason):
 - a. Work completed (Meadow street, meter & PRV)
6. Wells, water treatment plants, and storage tanks:
 - a. Update on Centennial WTP upgrades: pilot testing done in July, DAF looked good (T&B)
7. Watershed Protection activities (Ellie)
 - a. Amherst Road timber harvest: town forester (Brad Bordewieck) working on red pine harvest around Hawley Res. Doing east side this year; Pelham based logger, same as last year
 - b. Property acquisition projects: 1) State provided \$\$ as of May, town bought parcels 1, 2, 3 (12 acres). 2) Applied for \$\$ from state (EOEEA) for 2 properties in Atkins watershed, one small, one larger adjacent to proposed development in Shutesbury. 3) Kestrel proposal for large area to protect in Pelham/Shutesbury, much in watershed. No money approved by town meeting yet, etc. (Landscape Partnership Grant). Purchase and rights mix. ~ 500 acres in watershed. (Kestrel had applied for Federal \$\$, did not get it)
 - c. Snowmobile usage in watersheds: concern over 300 snowmobiles causing increased ATV use in summer. Currently don't allow motorized use in watershed land. Beginning discussion of concerns re impacts on erosion, environment (fuel spill), procedure and actions taken for trail maintenance in non-winter periods.
8. Select date for January meeting:
 - a. January 22nd (Note: first day of class at UMass is Tuesday Jan 20)
9. Other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before the meeting: none
10. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.